

## CLAIMS

1. A tufting needle including a shank having a longitudinal axis, a blade extending from said shank, an eye and point portion including a transverse eye connected to said blade and terminating in a point, a shoulder at the junction of the eye and point portion with the blade on one side of the blade, and the side opposite to said one side having a substantially uninterrupted surface intermediate the eye and the shank. .
2. A tufting needle as recited in claim 1, wherein said uninterrupted surface is substantially flat. .
3. A tufting needle as recited in claim 1, having a lead-in chamfer on said one side which is the width of at least half of the width of said blade. .
4. A tufting needle as recited in claim 2, wherein said uninterrupted surface lies in a plane and said plane is parallel to a longitudinal axis passing through said eye and said point. .